Ontario wetland

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Intro-  There are a couple types of wetlands in Ontario such as bogs, fens, marshes, swamps, and ponds Plants and animals that live in these ecosystems come from both land and water habitats. These types of wetlands are classifeid into smaller descriptions such as surface conditions, area drainage, nearness to water bodies, and area vegetation.

Marshes

General - marshes are wetlands that are completely covered in water.  There are many different types of marshes but all marshes receive water from surface water, some marshes also receive water from ground water. Emergent plants have their roots in the soil and their leaves above the water.  Marshes are shallow, they are within 15 to 90 cm in depth.  Marshes have fluctuating water levels, particularly when they are isolated from large water bodies. There are many nutrients in marshes and the ph level is normally neutral which leads to a large animal and plant population. Large areas of open water are very uncommon. Marshes give water to streams this is vital in times like drought. Marshes help reduce damage caused by flood water by slowing and storing the flood water. Wetlands filter out sediment and pollution from the surrounding environment so that the water they discharge is cleaner then the water that entered the wetland.””Wetlands act as both a sink and a source, storing and passing on vital resources.”- Wikipedia. Because of their high levels of nutrients, freshwater marshes are one of the most productive ecosystems on earth. Marshes sustain a diversity of life that is way larger than to the proportion to its size.

habitat- habitats are areas which provide living things the combination of food, water, shelter, and space in the amounts needed to live. A marsh is a wet area that is characterized by vegetation such as cattails. Water flows through the vegetation. The soils are normally high in organic matter, especially in shallow areas. The soils usually have a significant mineral component. This creates a good habitat for many plants and animals. The plants and animals that live in marshes have done so by adapting to the soil, water, nutrient supply, and other conditions found there.



Cattail marsh, Burwash (August 10, 2002)

<http://www.ontariowildflower.com/wet.htm>

Plants and animals – Marshes are dominated by rushes, sedges, and low-lying grasses. Typical plants of Canadian marshes are cattails, reeds, bulrushes, and saw-grass. Marshes can support rather large populations of birds and certain mammals such as muskrats. The borders of these marshy areas, called potholes, have always provided major breeding areas for surface-feeding ducks such as mallards, pintails, and blue-winged teals. The live stock of marshes are invertebrates, amphibians reptiles and mammals.  
  
Biography

<http://www.scienceclarified.com/Vi-Z/Wetlands.html>

<http://www.ontariowildflower.com/wet.htm>

<http://www.torontohiking.com/html/wetlands.html>